



2002 Wetlands Reserve Program

The Baraboo River Project in Columbia County restores 850 acres of quality floodplain forest, wetland and grassland. This area lies within the Baraboo River floodplain and will be an integral part of a larger project where four dams have been removed, restoring over 120 miles of free flowing river.

This restoration included seeding 300 acres of native prairie and savannah species, filling four miles of ditches, and constructing 18 wetland scrapes. Some areas were designed to mimic natural floodplain topography creating habitat and regenerating floodplain forested areas. Water levels can be controlled which will help control invasive species and carp.

This floodplain is home to Prothonotary and Cerulean warblers and a suite of other songbirds that require mature floodplain trees and a complex of wetland and grassland habitat. Bald eagles and Blandings turtles will also likely call this site home.

Wisconsin Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program started in Wisconsin in 1994. As of December 2002 over 36,000 acres have been enrolled in WRP involving more than 350 landowners. The program presently has a backlog of 108 applications that would enroll an additional 6,300 acres in the program.

Accomplishments

The WRP Program in Wisconsin enrolled over 5,000 acres in permanent easements in 2002. The success of the program is primarily due to strong partnerships developed with other agencies and due to the staff specialists on WRP Teams placed around the state. In 1999 our annual allocation was just over \$3 million. In 2002, it increased to \$9.4 million.

Program Benefits

Wildlife habitat is the most obvious benefit from wetland restorations, but other benefits include floodwater retention, groundwater recharge and filtration of runoff from neighboring farms. Wisconsin has great potential for waterfowl production as well as other types of wildlife. NRCS biologists will be monitoring all restorations.

State Contact

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WRP Wisconsin Dollars and Contracts

Fiscal Year 2002

Cumulative Total (97-02)

Congressional Districts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$107,000	1	\$2,777,345	6
District 2	\$7,567,733	17	\$14,489,514	88
District 3	0	0	\$3,625,366	70
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	\$550,400	1	\$3,176,721	7
District 6	\$835,223	14	\$10,526,491	104
District 7	\$335,700	2	\$3,211,013	63
District 8	0	0	\$501,264	21
State Totals	\$9,396,056	36	\$38,307,714	359

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